

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 AID-20 IO-12 EB-11 /147 W
----- 041953

R 271720 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8562

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL SEVILLE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR MO SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS RABAT VISIT

REF: A. RABAT 1151; B. RABAT 1308

1. SUMMARY. LOPEZ- BRAVO LEAVES RABAT AFTER 24- HOUR VISIT. THOUGH LOCAL PRESS HAS NOT YET COMMENTED ON SUBSTANCE MINISTER' S MEETINGS, MAP DISPATCH QUOTING HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT MADRID INDICATES EFFORTS TO SOLVE FISHING CRISIS ON EVEN KEEL. TO HELP KEEP SITUATION THIS WAY HE ASKS SPANISH PRESS TO HELP PROMOTE CLIMATE OF SPANISH-MOROCCAN DETENTE. END SUMMARY.

2. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER GREGORIO LOPEZ- BRAVO LEFT RABAT FOR MADRID MORNING MARCH 27 AFTER 24- HOUR VISIT TO MOROCCO. LOCAL PRESS HAS NOT COMMENTED SO FAR ON SUBSTANCE OF TALKS, BUT VISIT HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED IN POSITIVE MANNER WITH RADIO AND TV COVERAGE PROJECTING IMAGE OF CORDIALITY. NEWS FILMS OF LOPEZ- BRAVO' S ARRIVAL AT RABAT AND AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN PORTRAY CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL FRIENDLINESS HERE TOWARD MINISTER.

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3. APPARENTLY DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS OF LOPEZ- BRAVO AND HIS MOROCCAN COLLEAGUE AHMED TAIBI BENHIMA HAVE SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING FISHING NEGOTIATIONS ON EVEN KEEL DESPITE INTEMPERATE PRESS CAMPAIGNS ON BOTH SPANISH AND MOROCCAN SIDES. MAP DISPATCH DATED MADRID MARCH 27 REPORTS LOPEZ- BRAVO SAYING ON ARRIVAL FROM RABAT THAT HIS ELEVEN HOURS OF MEETINGS CONSTITUTED SERIOUS EFFORT TO GET OUT OF " CLIMATE OF HIGH TENSION AND ENTER NEW CLIMATE OF COMPREHENSION AND DETENTE." MINISTER SUPPORTED IDEA OF DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES' PRIVATE FISHING SECTORS AND SAID REPRESENTATIVES OF LATTER WILL MEET IN MALAGA APRIL 9.

4. LOPEZ- BRAVO UNDERLINED HIS GRATITUDE FOR AUDIENCE KING HASSAN GRANTED AND CALLED IT " VERITABLE WORKING SESSION," ACCORDING TO MAP. MINISTER SAID KING HAS " EXCELLENT DISPOSITIONS" ON ISSUES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, BUT WARNED THAT THERE " INTERESTS, ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS WHICH HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AND WHICH CAN HELP POINT, MAP REPORTS, LOPEZ- BRAVO MADE DIRECT APPEAL TO JOURNALISTS AT MADRID ARRIVAL TO HELP TO PROMOTE DETENTE.

5. COMMENT: SPIRIT OF LOPEZ- BRAVO' S REMARKS ABOVE SIMILAR TO THAT OF SPANISH EMBASSY OFFICIAL RABAT QUOTED REF A. MINISTER INDICATES SOLUTION TO FISHING CRISIS IS ON TRACK BUT THAT IRRESPONSIBLE PRESS TREATMENT CAN THREATEN IT. IT CERTAINLY TRUE THAT PRO- GOVERNMENT BUT ESPECIALLY OPPOSITION MOROCCAN PRESS DELIGHTS IN QUOTING, FOR EXAMPLE, " YA" AND " ABC" S" PROVOCATIVE COVERAGE OF MOROCCO TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON SPAIN' S " PROTECTORATE" OR " FACIST" MENTALITY THUS RENDERING DIPLOMACY MORE DIFFICULT.
PARKER

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